

On the Essentiality of the Armenian Nasal Declensions

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Careful attention to internal reconstruction of the inflections of the nasal stems leads us to important results for an understanding of the behavior of IE noun stems. We can see the essentials by observing the paradigms of *ezn* and *harsn*:

sg. N.A.	<i>ezn</i>	<i>harsn</i>
Instr.	<i>ezamb</i>	<i>harsamb</i>
G.D.L.	<i>ezin</i>	<i>harsin</i>
pl. N.	<i>ezink'</i> , <i>anjink'</i>	<i>harsunk'</i> , <i>mi-anjunk'</i>

I have already correlated the nasal stems with the Old Irish formations¹ in order to show the conservatively wide variety of reflexes which afford us a great deal of valuable information and criteria. Now in the above formations it is clear that two underlying stem types exist which may be represented in their lexical entries as *ezin-* and *harsun-*, and furthermore *anjin-ϕ-anjun-*, etc. The instrumental also shows the rule which adjusts the vocalism to *ezaN-* and *harsaN-*; this is of course a descendant of the IE rule imposing zero grade in the weak cases. We have then **seǵh-en-* and **prk-on-ϕ* **seǵh-n-*, **prk-n-*.

We furthermore find in G.D.Abl. pl. *ezanc'* and *harsanc'*. The IE rule for zero grade derivational vocalism applied to **seǵh-n-sk-* and **prk-n-sk-* which we also find in OIr. *uisce* 'water' < **ud-n-sk-io-m*.²

We may now turn our attention to G.D.L.sg. *ezin* and *harsin*. Here *harsin* is particularly valuable because the vocalism stands out contrastively against the underlying *harsun-*. It is clear that we do not

have a reflex here of the IE zero grade seen in *šaržman* (: *šaržumn*), *serman* (: *sermn*), or *tan* (: *tun*, pl. *tunk'*). On the other hand, that such zero grades once existed is shown by the constant *r̄* in G. *gařin* (: *gařn*, Gk. G. *ἄρνός*), which we would derive from **uar-n-os*.

Nevertheless *harsin* cannot be derived simply from the type of *t'ořin* or **uar-n-os*, and must surely reflect in part the archaic G.sg. conserved in OIr. *abae* < **ab-en-s* (: *aub* 'river' < **ab-ū*).³ Then at a later date the earlier **prk-en-s* would have been remodelled to **prk-en-os* > **hars-in-ox*.

This brings us to consider how the locative fell in with the genitive here, and that in turn confirms for us a very precious fact of IE structure. I have assembled elsewhere⁴ evidence for the IE endingless locative, and we find that this formation calls for **e*-vocalism. Thus the old locative of the Celtic word for 'river' yields Breton *aven*.

Similarly, the oldest locative sg. of *harsn* and *mi-anjn* was **prk-en* and **sm(iH_Q)-řen-uen*. Then, with the reinforcement by **-i* in the IE locative sg., **prk-en-i* was produced, and this led to *harsin*.

Armenian furnishes us with a highly valuable piece of evidence for the vocalism of this IE inflection.

NOTES

¹ International Symposium on Armenian Linguistics (Yerevan, September 21-25, 1982): Reports. Yerevan 1984, 107-13.

² *Ériu* 21, 1969, 87.

³ *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 30, 1972, 35-8; *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* 36, 1977, 5 ff.

⁴ *Papers from the Parasession on Diachronic Syntax* April 22, 1976, Chicago Linguistic Society, 349; *Papers from the 19th Regional Meeting* 21-22 April 1983, Chicago Linguistic Society, 156-7